



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>

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Calamity Pass to Jack Park Trail Now Open!

Snowpack is Super for Snow Sports in Forests Surrounding North Park

(Walden, Colo.) February 11, 2011 – Higher than average snowpack and miles of open trails are waiting for visitors to the State Forest and National Forest lands that surround North Park.

In the Owl Mountain North hazard tree removal project area, Road 740 (Teller Divide Road) over Calamity Pass is now open to access the popular Jack Park area via Road 758. Logging along Road 740 between Gould and Teller City has shut down for the winter. Most other routes on the National Forest are open or have detours to allow riders plenty of trails to travel. The popular Silver Creek Trail, linking Gould, the National Forest and the State Forest State Park, is available along a short groomed detour from the winter parking area to Silver Creek Road (Road 780). Riders can also connect to the upper and lower Owl Mountain loops at designated intersections on the National Forest from the Silver Creek Trail detour or from Road 740 for great day-long rides.

Trails in the State Forest State Park remain open for business as usual. “We have been very fortunate that ample snowpack has provided riding opportunities for all levels of snowmobilers from beginners through advanced,” said Chris Bradshaw, senior ranger at State Forest State Park. “Our trails provide a nice combination of groomed conditions with lots of access to some great powder.”

Hazard tree removal work in the South Owl Mountain project area, accessed from Rand, will continue throughout winter. Road 740 west of Teller City and all of Road 750 are closed to all access in that area, including by snowmobiles, skis or snowshoes. There is a new gate at the National Forest boundary that implements the 740 and 750 road closures, which includes areas adjacent to the road to improve visitor and contractor safety. “Snowmobiles and logging equipment don’t mix well,” cautions Parks District Ranger Mike Wright, “We want to make sure visitors are alert to their surroundings and respect these restrictions.”

Parks Ranger District Trails Coordinator, Jon Myers, wants winter visitors to remember caution and good preparation are always necessary in the back-country. “Just like anywhere on the Forest, there could be unmarked hazards from downed trees blocking the trail, avalanche conditions,

or sudden changes in weather. Plus, on roads where hazard trees were removed earlier this winter, there are snow plow berms along the edges of the road, so be careful of these.”

Riders from Grand County are reminded that even though they can access Illinois Pass from the Stillwater area, travel on or adjacent to Road 750 north of Illinois Pass is prohibited, and there is no open route from Illinois Pass to Teller City. In other parts of North Park, riders in the Buffalo Pass area will find all their favorite routes and play areas open, but are reminded to be aware of and abide by the prohibition against snowmobiles in the Buffalo Pass Non-Motorized Recreation Area and Mount Zirkel Wilderness. All designated Wildernesses are off limits to any motorized uses.

Winter visitors planning trips to play on the trails around North Park are encouraged to call the US Forest Service (Parks Ranger District) or Colorado State Forest State Park (Moose Visitor Center) before their visit for most current conditions. The Parks Ranger District office at 100 Main Street in Walden is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 970-723-2700, then selecting Option 5 for the Recreation and Roads Hotline. Moose Visitor Center east of Gould is open Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 970-723-8366.

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